

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (109) in DH CDB/8/76/1
來函檔號 Your Ref :
電話 Tel. :
傳真 Fax No. :

October 22, 2025

Dear Doctor,

Remain Vigilant for Severe Chikungunya Fever and Seasonal Influenza

We would like to draw your attention to the first fatal case of chikungunya fever (CF) and recent cases of severe paediatric influenza recorded by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH). We also remind doctors to remain vigilant for these diseases and to arrange testing and management for clinically compatible cases for prompt diagnosis and control.

Details of the fatal CF case

The patient is a 77-year-old male with underlying illness. He developed fever and joint pain on October 13, and rash on October 14 after visiting Guangzhou in Guangdong Province between September 30 and October 13. He then sought medical attention at a private hospital on October 14 and was admitted for treatment on the same day. Subsequently, he developed multi-organ failure and was admitted to the intensive care unit October 19. He was transferred to Ruttonjee Hospital on October 20. However, his clinical condition continued to deteriorate and he passed away on October 22.

Please be reminded that severe symptoms and deaths from CF are usually related to other coexisting health problems. The elderly (particularly those over 65 years), young children (particularly those under one year), pregnant women and patients with underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for more severe disease.



Latest situation of CF

As at October 21, a total of 42 CF cases have been recorded in Hong Kong this year, all of which were imported cases. The 42 cases involved 27 males and 15 females, aged ranging from 1 to 79 years (median: 44). Except the above fatal cases, the other cases were mild infections.

Globally, as of September 30, a total of 445,271 suspected and confirmed CF cases and 155 CF-related deaths have been reported in 40 countries/territories in 2025. You can refer to the following webpage for details on areas with current outbreak or endemic areas (https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/cf_imported_cases_and_overseas_figures_eng.pdf).

In Guangdong Province, there were about 2,086 new CF cases in Guangdong last week (October 12 to 18), showing a slight decrease compared to the previous week (October 5 to 11), which reported 2 257 cases. Most of the cases (795 cases) were recorded in Jiangmen last week, followed by Foshan (241 cases), Shenzhen (202 cases) and Guangzhou (189 cases).

Testing of patients with compatible symptoms

If your patients develop compatible symptoms (e.g. fever, rash and joint pain), especially after visiting CF-affected areas, please arrange testing for prompt diagnosis, treatment and implementation of control measures. Testing is provided free of charge at the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) of the CHP. Private doctors can send blood specimens (2-3 ml of EDTA or clotted blood) to the PHLSB (Address: No. 382 Nam Cheong Street, Shek Kip Mei, Kowloon) before 5 pm from Monday to Friday (except public holidays) together with the **electronically filled** request form attached to this letter.

Latest situation of seasonal influenza and severe paediatric influenza cases

Hong Kong is currently in the summer influenza season and there has been a significant increase in influenza-like illness outbreaks in schools since September. The CHP has recorded 13 severe paediatric influenza cases, including one fatal case, involving children aged 2 to 17 years. Among them, ten had good past health. Most contracted influenza A viruses, except the fatal case who had influenza B infection. Their

complications included encephalopathy, severe pneumonia, shock, sepsis, and myocarditis.

Children infected with seasonal influenza may experience rapid deterioration shortly after symptom onset. Please remain vigilant for severe symptoms and warning signs of influenza (e.g., persistent fever, reduced oral intake, shortness of breath, cyanosis, severe vomiting, reduced alertness or playfulness, convulsions, etc.) among high-risk patients, especially children with underlying medical conditions. When necessary, refer them to hospital for prompt management and close monitoring.

Moreover, you may consider empirical treatment with neuraminidase inhibitor (e.g. oseltamivir) for patients suspected to have influenza infection early based on clinical assessment, especially patients at higher risk of complications, such as young children, elders, people with chronic diseases, pregnant women, etc. Studies have shown that neuraminidase inhibitors can reduce severe outcomes of influenza. We would like to draw your attention to the Hospital Authority's internal clinical guideline on "Use of neuraminidase inhibitors in out-patient settings" (<https://icidportal.ha.org.hk/Home/File?path=/Use%20of%20neuraminidase%20inhibitors%20in%20out-patient%20settings.pdf>).

Please refer to the weekly "COVID-19 & Flu Express" for the latest surveillance data on seasonal influenza (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/resources/29/100148.html>).

Please draw the attention of healthcare professionals and supporting staff in your institution/ working with you to the above. Thank you for your unfailing support in the prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Albert AU)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health



衛生署 衛生防護中心 公共衛生化驗服務處

九龍 石硤尾 南昌街 382 號

Public Health Laboratory Services Branch, Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health
382 Nam Cheong Street, Shek Kip Mei, Kowloon



微生物科

Microbiology Division

Laboratory Testing Request Form for Chikungunya fever

HKID : _____

Travel Document No. : _____
(if no HKID)

☐ Passport

☐ Two-way permit 雙程證

☐ 行街紙

☐ One-way permit 單程證

Name : _____
Surname first (in BLOCK letters)

Date of Birth : _____ / _____ / _____
(Day) (Month) (Year)

Age : _____ Sex : _____

Collection Date:

Patient Tel. No.: _____

Collection Time:

Clinic Tel. No.: _____

Clinic Fax No.: _____

Clinic Address: _____

Requesting Doctor : _____ Signature : _____

Clinical Diagnosis :

Onset date :

Please tick box ☐ as appropriate

SYMPTOMS

- ☐ Joint pain, location: _____
- ☐ Fever ☐ Headache
- ☐ Malaise ☐ Myalgia
- ☐ Back pain ☐ Vomiting
- ☐ Others (Please specify): _____

SPECIMEN TYPE

Blood (EDTA or clotted blood, 2-3 ml)

INVESTIGATION

- ☐ Chikungunya fever test

TRAVEL HISTORY (if any):

Destination(s) and period(s):

FOR LABORATORY USE ONLY